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Williams family

Sketch of the life of
Allan Irving Williams
as related by him to his
son, Allan B. Williams,
in October 1929 and from
letters, books and data
left by him.

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SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF
ALLAN IRVING WILLIAMS
AS RELATED BY HIM TO HIS
SON, ALLAN B. WILLIAMS,
IN OCTOBER 1929 AND FROM
LETTERS, BOOKS AND DATA
LEFT BY HIM.

Allan Irving Williams was born at Farmington, Michigan, on January 20, 1846, a son of George Wright and _____ Ray Wright (mother's given name unknown). The father, George Wright, died when father was about five years old, from pneumonia or something of that nature. There were three children, the eldest being Edward who enlisted in the Civil War and was killed at Malvern Hill. The youngest brother was named Stephen and father said he never knew anything about him or what became of him. Father's own father was a wagonmaker and upon his death his mother was not able to care for the three children so he was sent to Livonia, N. Y., to live with a maiden aunt, Mary Ray, by name.

Living in Livonia at the time was Demian D. Williams and his wife Emily Decker Williams, daughter of John Decker, of Lima, N. Y. Demian's father, Mason Williams, wished to help his son but did not feel able to provide a farm in the vicinity where he lived. He had, however, 160 acres of virgin timber land in the town of Bennington, Michigan, and Demian was given the option of taking this 160 acres or \$1,000 in cash. Demian went to Michigan and looked at the land offered him by his father and decided to take it in lieu of the money, as he realized that the money would not go very far in establishing himself.

By this time it had become apparent that there was not likely to be any children born to this union and they were desirous of adopting a child. They desired this the more because they were going into a wilderness and Demian wanted company for his wife. They, therefore, looked around for a child and selected father, then a boy of six, who was living with the maiden aunt above mentioned. In order to become better acquainted with the young boy, he was given a trial visit of several week's duration in the home of Mason Williams and then to John Decker's

for a similar period, these visits taking place in the summer of 1852. Thereafter feeling satisfied with their choice, father was adopted only by verbal understanding by Demian and Emily Williams who gave him the name of Allan Irving Williams. It was not until March 1867 that father took the necessary legal formalities to change his name from Allan J. Wright to Allan Irving Williams, as will be seen from the following legal notice:

"LEGAL NOTICES.

At a Special Term of the Court of Common Pleas for the City and County of New York, held at the City Hall in the City of New York, on the 19th day of March, 1867;

Present - Hon. John R. Brady, Judge, etc.

In the matter of the application of Allan J. Wright to change his name.

On reading and filing the petition of Allan J. Wright praying that he may be authorized by an order of this Court to assume the name of Allan Irving Williams, and that his name may be changed accordingly, which petition sets forth the grounds of the application, and is duly verified by the petitioner, and the Court being satisfied by the said petition so verified that there is no reasonable objection to the said Allan J. Wright assuming the name of Allan Irving Williams -

Now, on motion of the petition, it is ordered that on complying with the directions hereinafter given in this order, the name of said petitioner be, on and after the 1st day of May, 1867, changed to Allan Irving Williams.

And it is further ordered, that within ten days from the date hereof the said petitioner cause a copy of this order to be published in the N. Y. Leader, a public newspaper printed in the City of New York; and that within twenty days thereof he cause the petition, this order, and an affidavit of the publication of this order, to be filed and recorded in the office of the Clerk of the City and County of New York, in accordance with the provisions of an act entitled 'An Act to Authorize Persons to Change their Names', passed December 14, 1847,

and an act amendatory thereof passed March 17, 1860.

John R. Brady, Judge
mh23lt Court of Common Pleas."

In the late summer of 1852 Demian and his wife got an outfit together, except furniture and other utensils of a bulky nature, and went on the canal to Buffalo, probably in October. From Buffalo they took the steamer "Sultana" bound for Detroit. This was the last trip the "Sultana" made as a passenger boat, freight only being carried thereafter. Father said that there was not much sleep on the boat that night. There was a great deal of singing and he recalled hearing the following verse being sung:

"Bound to run all night,
Bound to run all day,
Bet your money on a bob tail nag,
Somebody bet on the bay."

From Detroit they took the railroad to Pontiac which was at that time the end of the road. Uncle John Decker was living at Wall Lake, Oakland County, and father knows of ^{no} means of getting to their 160 acres located 5-1/2 miles from Owosso, unless John Decker came for them. It is likely they stayed with him until they had secured their furniture and kitchen utensils and with team and wagon they drove west, arriving at the 160 acre piece on election day, - the 4th of November 1852. They were fortunate in finding a vacant log house near this land and this was where they first lived. That winter they built a log barn on the main road. The following year they built a frame house 16 x 24 and subsequently built on this a lean-to. One night during a severe wind storm a fire started under the kitchen stove in the lean-to. Demian secured a pail and went for water and instead of going through the house to the lean-to and putting the fire out as he easily could have done with a few pails of water, he went around the outside and smashed in a window to accomplish his purpose. The result was that the wind carried the fire right through the open door into the main part of the house and in a short time everything was destroyed. Father had nothing but his trousers and Demian not even that much clothing and had to borrow a pair of trousers from a settler. Uncle Henry Deck-

of 1852-1853 time?

Oakland

? added

er owned land across the road not far distant on which was located a double log house and it was here that Demian's family lived for a number of years during which time Demian bought the property.

During the Civil War Demian built a substantial frame house and other farm buildings which were considered the finest in the county. By this time, or at any rate when Demian left Michigan, he had acquired a total of about 400 acres.

There was a red school house half a mile distant from where Demian lived and father attended this school in the winter time. Naturally educational facilities were meager and not adequate to satisfy father's desire for learning. Books were very scarce and he told how he borrowed every book available within a radius of several miles from his home. The school, with its spelling bees, was about the only social diversion for the community, and the stimulating interest in these spelling bees undoubtedly developed in father a desire to be a good speller as indeed he proved to be during his whole life. Mail service was limited to a delivery once each week, the carrier coming on horseback.

Life on the Michigan farm was no exception to the life of pioneers in a new country and father often related many of the hardships he had to endure. Apparently this was not softened in his case by any great amount of consideration or kindness on the part of Demian Williams.

There seems no doubt that father did his full share in the daily work on the farm. To further encourage him Demian had a rather unique plan which consisted of allotting a certain piece of acreage to father for corn or other crops, with the understanding that father would receive as his own any proceeds from the sale of the crop. A similar arrangement was made for the care of a pig. Father would care for the crop and pig and await expectantly the time when he would have a little money in his pocket, but alas Demian always forgot the understanding and there was never any division of the proceeds. These disappointments were taken to his adopted mother, who was ever sympathetic and kind to father but who realized there was nothing she could do to improve a chronic characteristic in her husband's

nature. From time to time she would give father a few coppers and she always admonished him not to let her husband know that he had received the money. To illustrate the scarcity of money those days, father told of the way in which he was able to go to a circus billed to appear at the nearest town, and this was through the sale of an old rooster given him for the purpose by Henry Decker, the nearest neighbor. Mr. Decker had shown interest in having father see the circus, but lacking in money, he told father "There is an old rooster and if you can sell him, you can have the money to go to the circus". Father took the rooster to town and disposing of it was able to enjoy one of the very few pleasures of those early days.

After ten years of this kind of life, and probably smarting under the treatment he was receiving from his adopted father, presumably to break away from it all and start anew, he ran away from home, and found employment on a farm thirty miles distant in the direction of Flint. Here he received \$10.00 a month and "keep". It developed he had not greatly improved his condition so he remained only a short time when he found a place with a man of whom father said "He had a heart and soul". After an absence of nearly three months, he was seen by a boy from Bennington who drove by, and through whom his whereabouts was made known to Demian, who subsequently came for him and the urging of his mother Emily influenced him to return home.

Father never failed to speak of his mother Emily but in the most endearing terms and there is no doubt that her love and affection for him was the greatest encouragement to him throughout her lifetime. Her numerous letters to him attest her love and devotion to him. I quote from one of her letters:

"October 21, 1867

I learned to love you when a child and I am convinced that feeling is as permanent as life's end. I may just as well tell you here that I am determined to assist you as soon as the thing is possible. I have faith and confidence in you and if the whole world deserts you, I will not. I know you have done wrong many times, but I never yet have seen any person of any character (or, in other words, that knew anything) that did not do wrong and if their nearest friends will not look with

leniency on their faults, who will, and I just as much expect to see you take an upright honorable course from this time henceforth as I expect to live to see another morning.

Another thing I have never said much about, but I am bound to say just what I think tonight, and that is your marrying Emma. I am rejoiced that she has promised to have you. I have become convinced that she realizes the steps that she has taken and will do nothing wrong in the matter. Under existing circumstances, it would be very hard for me to forgive her if she did and I love her, too, better than any person in the wide world out of my own family. In fact, I consider her the most womanly, lovable girl that I ever knew. Oh! How glad I would be to see her tonight. I often wonder if she has any idea of how much I think of her. I hope the time is not far distant when you will be married. I would not give much for a woman's love that will not bear the test of small means to start in life with. I contend that ~~then~~ is just the time that a man needs a woman's love and sympathy to cheer him, and I am sure that Emma will always conform to circumstances and never ask anything in the least unreasonable."

Another letter written November 23, 1867.

"Once more I have an evening quite to myself and propose spending it with you. Oh, how I wish that I could really, but always I have faith that the time is not far distant when I shall see you. Do you know how happy I shall be when that time arrives? I think you do. I never felt for one moment that I had given you up forever. My feelings for you would not admit of any such conclusion. I can scarcely tell you how much good your last letter did me. I was so anxious to know just how you were doing. I feel most sincerely that you are beginning life right. I am glad to know that you have made a profession of religion. I think you will be a better and a happier man for so doing. I believe the longer any person lives in a careless manner in regard to such things, the more difficult it is for them to feel and live as

they ought. I believe that few people ever feel satisfied without some higher motive, something purer and nobler to strive for, than the things of this world."

During the following year, which was to be father's last on the farm, the Civil War was impending. Father was anxious to enlist but to do so required the consent of his adopted father. The enlistment officer obtained this consent which was given in the belief that a boy of 16 would not have the courage to take up arms. The following unfinished sketch begun by father gives the events leading up to his enlistment.

"I am hampered in giving any connected narrative of my war experience by an entire absence of any notes or data of the events. My letters home to mother were as frequent as circumstances would allow and had all of them been preserved would be of great interest to my family; unfortunately, no thought was given to their possible future value or preservation.

From the date of the election of Abraham Lincoln as President, there were low rumblings of trouble, but the people of the countryside in Michigan were slow to believe that a real war was impending. The firing on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, was the torch that lighted the fires of patriotic demonstrations. The call for volunteers received a generous response. It is worthy of note here that the State of Michigan with a population of less than 750,000 furnished 87,364 soldiers to the Civil War, or over 12% of its total population. A large portion of the state at that time was an unbroken wilderness. My home was on a farm in the town of Bonnington, Shiawassee County. Owosso, five miles away, was the nearest village and there I enlisted on August 30, 1862 for the term of three years or during the war, being only 16 years old at the time, although 18 years was the minimum limit for the service at the time. The pay promised was \$13.00 per month but I am sure that the amount had little influence on enlistments of my comrades or self, neither were we lured by any false notions that we were embarking on a lark. The war had been going on for a year and a half. Empty chairs and vacant sleeves were already appearing here and

there;- all appreciated the seriousness of the situation. The irresistible urge of a patriotic duty was then, and must ever be the main compelling force which leads men and boys to leave happy homes and go to war.

After a few days for goodbyes we were taken to Detroit and placed in camp where we were put thru intensive drilling for about three months. The housings were long rough board barracks with bunks three high like pantry shelves, lined with straw. Here we drew our equipment, saddles and horses.

About the first of December we were taken to Washington by train and placed in a tented camp on East Capitol hill. Here we were given mounted drilling and made several scouting trips out in Virginia toward the Blue Ridge Mountains nearly to Ashbys Gap and Snickers Gap. Toward spring (last of February 1863) we were moved out into the field for good. Up to this time the cooking was done by men detailed for that purpose, each company a separate unit. From this time on each man drew his own rations as a general rule, and cooked them himself over open fires built of such wood as might be picked up.

A word about rations. The main items that made up the rations of the cavalry common soldier in the field were salt mess pork, hard tack, white beans, rice, coffee; these were the mainstays; more food value could be packed in a limited space, with these articles than most any other similar number. The fare was varied when practicable with soft bread, corned beef (usually of such poor quality that the boys dubbed it 'salt horse'), and fresh beef. The duties of the cavalry arm requires more mobility than infantry, for long periods they are on the move and the variety of their rations was necessarily quite limited."

Father's writing ends here. He had intended to leave a rather complete sketch starting with his early life and carrying it through his war experiences to his later business and public interests, however, he got no further than this introduction to his war service.

What follows is the compilation of his oral statements checked against various publications in

which marginal notes had been made by father. For reference these books are here listed:

The Red Book of Michigan, A Civil, Military and Biographical History, by Charles Lanman, Author "Dictionary of Congress", etc., published in 1871 by E. B. Smith & Co., Detroit, and Philp & Solomons, Washington.

A Popular Life of Gen. George A. Custer, Major-General of Volunteers, Brevet Major-General, U. S. Army, and Lieut.-Col. 7th U. S. Cavalry, by Frederick Whittaker, Brevet Captain, 6th N. Y. Veteran Cavalry. Copyrighted 1876 by Sheldon & Company, New York.

Articles of Association and Roster of Survivors of General Custer's Michigan Cavalry Brigade Association. Published Sept. 10, 1903, Detroit, Mich.

Personal Recollections of a Cavalryman with Custer's Michigan Cavalry Brigade in the Civil War, by J. H. Kidd. Formerly Colonel 6th Michigan Cavalry and Brevet Brigadier-General of Volunteers. Published at Ionia, Michigan, by Sentinel Printing Co.

Articles in the National Tribune, of Washington, D. C., by the Editor John McElroy, on the history of the leading Civil War battles and the last year of the War.

Some of father's letters to his mother from his enlistment to his stay in the hospital in Philadelphia following the Battle of Gettysburg.

From this point we follow the movements of the 5th Regiment to which father belonged. The 5th and 6th Regiments passed through Alexandria, Centerville, Warrenton, thence through that part of Virginia that was between Washington and Falmouth; thence proceeding via Acquia Creek, Stafford Court House and Fairfax for Washington, arriving there after an absence of six days accomplishing nothing. On March 11, after recuperating, they started off into Virginia once more, bringing up at Fairfax Court House where they remained a week. Thence reached Vienna but after a couple of days duty returned to Fairfax Court

House from where they proceeded to Loudoun Valley to Aldie, Middleburg and Ashby's Gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Finding none of the enemy they returned to Fairfax. Subsequently they were sent to "Camp Meeting Hill" where a camp was established which proved to be a permanent one, where they remained until Hooker's army moved northward. About this time, early in June, rumors arrived of a projected movement of Lee's army northward and movements began to be a little more active. The first engagement worthy of a name was one at Frying Pan Creek on June 4, 1863. After this, by a route through Edwards Ferry, Frederick City, Emmettsburg, they pushed on to Gettysburg. They camped there until Monday, June 29th, when no enemy appearing they returned to Emmettsburg. On the morning of June 30th the 5th and 6th Regiments arrived at Littleton at daylight, where scouting was done in all directions. It was then learned that a large force of the enemy were out toward Hanover and there an engagement took place. It was on June 29th, when the entire division was united at the Village of Hanover, Pa., that the Brigade first saw General Custer.

The next engagement was the battle of Gettysburg. The 5th and 6th Michigan Regiments, under Brigadier-General Joseph T. Copeland, had the honor of being the first union troupes to enter Gettysburg. On July 3rd of this battle father was shot in the foot. He was removed to a barn in the outskirts of Gettysburg and the following day taken into Gettysburg and placed in the Presbyterian Church for a few days until they got the railroad in running order and then he and others were taken to Baltimore and after about six hours continued to Philadelphia where they were placed in a Government Hospital located at the corner of Spruce and 24th Streets. His foot became infected and was swollen twice its size. The surgeon, Dr. F. F. Maury, was a man who stood very high in his profession. He stated that if he did his duty he should amputate father's leg. Father said to him "You are the Doctor but you can't put it back once it has been removed". The doctor decided to leave it until the next morning. At that time he brought another doctor with him and they examined the foot and found it no better but also said that it was no worse. They concluded to delay action for another 24 hours. The third morn-

ing both doctors came back and noted some slight improvement. The fourth morning it was evident that the gangrene had been checked and from that time on rapid improvement followed. During his convalescence one of his comrades received an invitation from a Philadelphia woman to come out and spend the night and bring a friend with him. Father was invited to go and had a most enjoyable time in one of the beautiful Philadelphia homes. Following his discharge from the Hospital he was granted a furlough and went home to Michigan.

Sometime in November 1863, father having rejoined his regiment, the army went into winter quarters at Stevensburg, Va. This was a season of hard work for the Federal Cavalry since a change of tactics had been ordered and there was little time for rest or recreation. The Cavalry picket-line was 25 miles long while the Confederates protected their side of the line with infantry. Little firing occurred during the winter as there was a tacit understanding that they were not to molest each other.

In the spring of 1864, the first engagement in which father figured was the battle of the Wilderness on May 6th. In this engagement the 5th Michigan was in command of Col. Russell A. Alger. Col. J. H. Kidd, in his "Personal Recollections of a Cavalryman", has the following to say of Col. Alger:

"No one who witnessed it can ever forget the superb conduct of Col. Alger and his men when they swung into line on the right of the 6th Michigan and turned a threatened reverse into a magnificent victory."

The next engagements in which father participated were:

Sheridan's Raid to Richmond May 8, 1864
The Yellow Tavern Campaign May 11, 1864

It was in the latter that father saw the Confederate General J. E. B. Stuart shot by a man of the 5th Michigan Cavalry, John A. Huff, by name, of Company "E". On page 249 of the Red Book of Michigan,

the following account is given of this act:

"The regiment had charged through and driven the enemy out of the first line of woods near "Yellow Tavern", and had reached an open space, when the command was given to cease firing; just at that instant a rebel officer, who afterwards proved to be General J. E. B. Stuart, rode up with his staff to within about eighty rods of our line, when a shot was fired by a man of the 5th. John A. Huff of Company "E" remarked to him: "Tom, you shot too low, and to the left"; then turning round to Col. Alger who was near, he said: "Colonel, I can fetch that man." The Colonel replied: "Try him." He took deliberate aim across a fence and fired - the officer fell. Huff turned round to the Colonel and coolly said; "There's a spread eagle for you."

Huff had won the first prize for shooting while serving in Berdan's Sharpshooters, and was a most remarkable shot. He was from Macomb County, Michigan, and died June 23rd, 1864, of wounds received in action at Cold Harbor on the first of that month."

Following the Yellow Tavern Campaign, father was in the following engagements:

Meadow Bridge	May 12, 1864
Hanovertown	May 27,
Hawe's Shop	May 28,
Annon Church	May 30,
Cold Harbor	June 1,
Trevilian Station	June 11,

In this campaign father had his horse shot from under him. At first he thought his horse simply had stumbled and as he did not take his feet from the stirrups when the horse fell it pinned the full length of his leg beneath in a sort of small ditch or furrow. All efforts to free his leg were unavailing. Finally by drawing up his other leg and placing his foot against the horse's back, he was able to exert enough leverage to push the animal far enough to release the leg. One of his ankles was very badly wrenched but he managed to get to a small wooded piece and remained for a while

but the bullets were flying all around him and he made up his mind that he would have to get farther away, so with much effort he succeeded in getting half a mile farther back and was found and taken to a Hospital in Washington. Within two or three weeks he reported again for duty and was sent to a dismounted camp just out of Washington. This was composed of odds and ends of cavalry regiments for whom no mounts were available. There were probably 1800 men held in this camp. They remained there until the 4th of July, 1864, when, word coming of General Earley's march north, orders were received on the 5th of July to surrender their cavalry equipment and to take equipment for infantry. They were then placed on a freight train and sent to Harper's Ferry. From there they marched to Maryland Heights where they were ordered to remain in a wheat field. These men were a bunch of raw men unused to marching or infantry warfare. The weather was intensely hot and father said that he was pretty nearly all in and suffering greatly for a drink of water. Only certain ones were able to get away to secure water and those who had water were offered money for it. Father offered \$5 for a drink of water but it was refused him. Finally he handed the man his wallet, containing probably from \$30 to \$40, and said that he must have a drink of water and that he could take what he wished. The man replied that he guessed he wanted a drink pretty badly and so he gave him the water without taking anything for it. The next day this disorganized lot of stragglers started up the valley through one of the gaps in the mountains to the Shenandoah River; this they crossed and facing a hot reception from the rebels they returned back across the river as speedily as their legs could carry them. It was then that father was taken with dysentery which later developed into typhoid fever. He was sent back in the valley to Harper's Ferry and transferred on the railroad to Cumberland where he was placed in the Claryville Hospital. He remained here during the course of the fever and after convalescing obtained a thirty day furlough and went home to Michigan. At the expiration of his furlough he reported to Dr. Shaner at the hospital in Cumberland. About this time this incident occurred:

Another comrade wanted to make application for a furlough and asked father, who was an excellent ponman, to fill out the blank for him. When the application was presented, Dr. Shaner noticed the good

penmanship and inquired who had filled it out. Whereupon the soldier replied that he did not know the man's name but "he was the fellow with the red flannel shirt who had just returned from a furlough". (This shirt was made by father's mother and given to him while home). Dr. Shaner then sent for father who was assigned to clerical work and reports in which capacity he continued for some time. He finally wanted to get back to his regiment but the Doctor would not listen to it and said that he was more valuable there than he would be with his regiment. Aside from his excellent penmanship father developed ability along medical lines. This was brought out by his skill in preparing wounded and others for attention, when called upon in emergency. Noting this the doctor urged father to study medicine. Not having sufficient funds with which to prepare himself for such a career father did not feel that he could follow Dr. Shaner's suggestion.

One day father complained to Dr. Shaner that he was not feeling very well. The Doctor took a look at him and giving him a slap on the back said: "You are all right". However, the following morning when he awoke, his comrade, George Bayne, who slept on the adjoining cot, seeing that he was broken out, exclaimed: "Oh, Williams, you have got the measles." When Dr. Shaner appeared father asked him what he had to say now as to whether there was anything the matter with him. Father was going to get up but Dr. Shaner ordered him back to bed and told him not to leave there until he gave orders and if he learned of his doing so he would place a guard over him. Father got along all right and in the course of a week was released to continue his duties assisting Dr. Shaner. This continued for several months and probably until the time when he was discharged from the service on May 16, 1865, at Cumberland, Maryland. While this was the end of father's war service, he continued to take an active interest in his old Brigade.

In the year 1868 in Detroit, Michigan, a meeting was held to perfect a Michigan Cavalry Brigade Association. Some very successful reunions were held and in 1891 in Detroit an organization was formed and officers elected but no Articles of Association adopted. However, on Oct. 15, 1902, at Detroit, such Articles of Association were adopted under the name and title of "Michigan Cavalry Brigade Association"

and father became one of the charter members, which was composed of the four regiments, First, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh. The war records show, and it is officially admitted, that the Custer Michigan Brigade of Cavalry sustained the highest percentage loss of killed of any mounted brigade in service in the War of the Rebellion; its record of killed was a total of 528, and a total loss from all causes of 1575 officers and men.

After almost three years of war service, home must have looked pretty good to father when he returned there for a visit after his discharge. It happened that a niece of Mrs. Demian Williams, Emily Barton, was a visitor in the household at that time. The niece was a favorite of her aunt and as she was accustomed to making stays of sometimes a year in length, there was ample opportunity for the young couple to pursue a courtship which was to culminate in marriage several years later. This affair of the heart undoubtedly was a spur to father in his desire to establish himself in business. He started east with the intention of seeing Dr. Shaner in Washington, Pa., probably to further discuss the desirability of taking up the study of medicine as had been urged on him while he was assisting the doctor in the Cumberland Hospital. Fate stepped in to change this plan for the journey was interrupted at Erie, Pa., where father found himself seeking work after having been robbed of his entire capital of \$25.00. Obtaining a temporary job with J. H. Lant, a publisher of Hudson, N. Y., he canvassed the city for a directory. This work finished he was sent to Reading, Pa., to canvass that city. Since the publisher had no further work in sight, father tried to get a position in one or two stores in Reading where he had become acquainted during his canvassing and was told in one case that they would be glad to take him on but as a necessary qualification was to be able to speak Pennsylvania Dutch they could not use him.

Unable to obtain a position, father decided to take a course at a business school in Reading, conducted by Clark & Nelson. With money furnished by his mother he was able to finish the course, which lasted from October 1865 to February 1, 1866. Father evidently made good progress and mastered the principles of bookkeeping for he continued at the school for

several months as a teacher of this subject.

About this time, one of his chums, Joe G. Maxwell, a telegraph operator in Reading, moved to New York to work on the Atlantic Cable, which influenced father to go to New York in search of work. Arriving there with \$17.50 in his pocket, he took rooms in the same boarding house with Maxwell and spent a number of weeks answering advertisements as he himself could not afford to advertise. When his money was exhausted, Maxwell loaned him additional funds to pay his board. In answer to one of his letters, he was asked to call on a concern in the lower part of the city, which turned out to be a wholesale liquor dealer. There were 300 applications for this position and father was one of the twelve asked to call, and in due course was asked to call again, at which time the number had been reduced to three. The proprietor asked father if he had conscientious scruples about the liquor business, to which father made reply that his circumstances would not permit him to have any such scruples, whereupon he was told that he could have the position. Father then stated that he had one more prospect in view and if nothing came of it, he would come back. The other prospect was the New Britain Knitting Company and having secured this position, the liquor dealer was advised that he would not accept his offer.

Father started with the New Britain Knitting Company in 1866 as bookkeeper and with permanent employment at last, he could look forward to the time when he would be in a position to consider marriage. This did not come until January 5, 1869, when father and mother were married at her home in Lima, N. Y. For the first few months they boarded at 59 East 60th Street, then far up town. Then, probably through the influence of one of father's friends who had settled on the Passaic River at Rutherford Park, N. J., a home was bought nearby. It was here that Allan Barton Williams was born on May 18, 1871 and Myron Percy Williams on December 6, 1872,

The Knitting Company position continued until the year 1871, when the sales office and warehouse were turned over to the commission house of Porter Brothers, located on Broadway above Canal Street. Under the new arrangement, Porter Brothers

were to keep separate books of the business of the knitting Company and father was retained by Porter Brothers for about a year. About this time, two friends named Ennis and Ketcham interested father in joining them in the purchase of the fancy drygoods business of J. H. Neiley & Co. Ennis had a small interest in the business and had been with Neiley for many years. The firm of Ennis, Williams and Ketcham was, therefore, formed in 1872, each partner having one-third interest. This partnership continued for about two years and encountered financial difficulties. It was then agreed that the business could not support three partners and father sold his interest to Ennis and Ketcham for \$500. Neiley held father's note for about \$2,500, endorsed by Demian Williams, and father deeded the house and lot at Rutherford Park for the return of this note. Father then moved his family to his old home in Owosso, Michigan, in the fall of 1874, with the expectation of acquiring an interest in a drygoods business in Owosso, which Demian Williams recommended. This venture had proceeded no further than the start on inventory taking when it was found that the proposed partnership would not be desirable, and later father received congratulations from others for staying out of the venture, as the party he was dealing with did not bear a good reputation.

No business openings having developed in Owosso, father returned to New York for a short stay, expecting to obtain a position for which he had been recommended by his old business acquaintance, Friend Pitts. This position did not materialize and again returning to Michigan, he was urged by his father-in-law, Elijah C. Barton, a millwright, to join his son, Myron Barton, in the purchase of a grist mill located at Richmond Mills, Ontario County, N. Y. This partnership started in the fall of 1875 when the family moved to Richmond Mills, where Friend Pitts Williams was born on December 18th of that year.

The grist mill was bought for \$7,000, of which \$2,000 was paid in cash. Located on Hemlock Lake Outlet, the mill derived its power from that source. The City of Rochester obtained its water supply from Hemlock Lake and as time went on there was a diminishing supply for the various grist, saw and paper mills scattered along the Outlet for its entire length. This condition made operations uncertain and the advent of steam mills, which could be run at all times,

contributed to the loss of patronage. The discouraging outlook caused the mill owners to seek redress and all joined in a damage suit against the City of Rochester, which eventually was decided in favor of the mill owners. The award of \$5,000 for past damages received by Barton & Williams was used to pay off the mortgage on the mill property. Subsequently Myron Barton, who had bought father's interest, received about \$1200 as a settlement from the City of Rochester for future use of the water. Early in 1884 father determined on finding a position as the milling business promised so little and he was concerned about the future of his three sons. During a visit in Rochester he learned through F. E. Rogers, of the firm of Williams & Rogers, proprietors of the Rochester Business University, of an opening with the Acme Oil Company, of Olean, N. Y., one of the Standard refining units. W. M. Irish, Manager of the Acme Company, sent for father and after an interview engaged him for the position of head bookkeeper starting in February 1884. Later father sold his interest in the mill property to Myron Barton and moved his family to Jay Street in Olean in August 1884, the three sons starting in the public schools with the September term. In September 1890 the Associated Producers Company, (subsidiary of Tide Water Oil Company) moved its office from Buffalo to Olean and father was offered the position of Secretary and Treasurer of that Company. Since he could not hope for much further advancement with the Acme Company, and the new position was attractive from the standpoint of salary and future prospects, father accepted and entered upon his duties in September 1890. He was now able to provide his family with more comforts and in due course bought the home at the corner of Sixth and Sullivan Streets. The office of Associated Producers Company in Olean was not destined to be permanent for a change in management occurred and with it a decision to move the office to New York City. Father had reason to feel, and rightly so, that had he cared to go to New York and again try his fortunes in that City he could have kept his position. Instead, at the earnest solicitation of F. L. Bartlett, President of the Exchange National Bank, he went with the Bank as its cashier in January 1895, and continued in this position until his retirement from active business in January 1907. A vacancy in the directorate at that time enabled the Bank to elect father to the Board in recognition of his loyal service to the Bank, and he served on the Board from the

date of his retirement up to the time of his death. For a number of years father occupied a small office on the north side of the banking room for his personal use which enabled him to keep in close touch with bank affairs.

The change from active business life was something father had long looked forward to and his decision to retire came when he felt that his financial position assured a continuance of reasonable comforts. Time was not destined to hang heavily on his hands for father had many interests to keep him occupied. As usual he continued to work in his flower and vegetable gardens. Always seeking something new and unusual, each year was apt to find a new plant or shrub in the yard while he was constantly experimenting with new varieties of vegetables to obtain the best results. Having read of the use of strips of paper for vegetable rows, to hold moisture, keep down weeds and increase yield, it is likely that he may have been one of the first to apply the method to a small garden. He was particularly fond of wild flowers and many varieties were brought in from the woods to his wild garden which so far as possible was made to conform to natural conditions. Over the years father accumulated a good many books on horticulture and gardening and kept in touch with current developments through a wide variety of magazines and thus it is not surprising that he acquired a fund of information about plant life to an unusual degree.

Another interest, photography, was taken up -not the snap-shot variety - but a careful study and experiment with the best equipment which later was to pay good dividends in the excellence of his work. Developing, finishing and enlarging was a part of the program which father carried on for many years. Of all of his work in photography father took greatest pride in his wild life studies, the "Partridge on Nest" being an outstanding example and requiring many hours of patient waiting to obtain. Colored plates and the use of a pin hole in place of the camera lens added an interest to the routine and taken as a whole it is safe to say that father's photography would rank among the first for amateurs. Another source of interest was a liking for cabinet work. Back in Richmond days any spare time was devoted to the making of pieces for the household, usually of black walnut so common in those days. This interest was revived after retirement and over a period of years many pieces in

mahogany were made, all giving evidence of real ability in the use of tools.

With the advent of the radio father was perhaps slow to experiment with the earlier sets, but when it appeared that radio outfits had been perfected to a point where reasonable satisfaction could be had, he carefully selected one of the best sets going. This and a later replacement gave many hours of pleasure in his later years when there was less energy for tramping the woods and other activities of that nature. His desire for reading developed in the early Michigan days was never interrupted to the end. Whether living in the country or elsewhere, the household was always supplied with worth while books, magazines and papers. Father may well be cited as an outstanding example of how a handicap of meager schooling can be successfully overcome. Certainly it can be said that few persons are able to continue their interest in world affairs as was shown by father down to his closing days.

The following excerpts from an article published by the Olean Evening Times of October 21, 1929 gives a resume of father's public service and activities in his home city of Olean:

"He was associated with the Olean Electric Light & Power Company from its inception in 1888, and some of the old time merchants will remember having made their contracts through him for the first electrical service in the city."

"Mr. Williams, from the beginning of his residence in Olean, manifested an active interest in the advancement of public affairs, and, while never a candidate for public office, he served on the School Board and as one of the aldermen under the first city charter in 1893.

While Mr. Williams spent a most active business life, he always found plenty of time for the finer things and, as is well known to most of the older residents, was an authority on botany and horticulture. A tramp through the woodlands in the nearby hills with Mr. Williams was a treat that scores of his friends looked forward to. The flora and fauna of this region were an open book to him, which he delighted to read, especially to his younger friends who so frequently accompanied him on hikes through the woods.

Mr. Williams was recognized as a hunter of rare skill, but the camera instead of the rifle was his weapon, and his collection of photographs of the wild life of this vicinity has for years been the marvel of the friends who were privileged to visit him in his spacious den on the third floor of his Sullivan Street residence. As an amateur photographer Mr. Williams had few equals and he was among the early experimenters in color photography.

Mr. Williams' interest in, and practical knowledge of shrubs and plants and landscape architecture resulted in his having been appointed a member of the Olean Park Commission in 1904 and as secretary of that Commission he led the movement for the transformation of Oak Lawn Cemetery at the head of Laurens Street to the present beautiful Oak Hill Park, which was completed in 1906. Although Mr. Williams retired from the Park Board in 1907, he was frequently consulted by his successors, even to the present year. He not only lent his assistance to the beautification of public grounds but has helped scores of private owners throughout the city in the development of their lawns and gardens. In 1913 when an effort was being made to find a solution of the flood problem in this city, Mr. Williams was appointed by the late W. H. Simpson, then mayor of the city, as a member of the Flood Abatement Commission, which completed the Flood Abatement project in 1918. He was one of the first to recognize the possibilities of acquiring waste lands in conjunction with this project and of converting unsightly areas into the beautiful parks and playgrounds which the city now possesses.

Although his own sons attained their majority more than thirty years ago, he was one of the most loyal and practical friends of the children of the city up to the time of his death. He was constantly thinking and planning in the interests of their education and recreation. He was, therefore, a staunch advocate of good schools, parks, playgrounds and general recreational facilities and always gave his hearty support to community investments in these enterprises.

It may well be said that few cities have been favored with a long life of such exceptional usefulness as that which Mr. Williams devoted to the interests of the upbuilding of this city."

Coming down to the last year of his life father began to have throat trouble and by the late

spring of 1929 he was conscious of a swelling in his throat which made swallowing difficult. He also complained of pains in his chest. Under the care of Dr. Arthur L. Runals, who was a general practitioner, and Dr. Lea W. Tindolph, throat specialist, some relief was obtained but with the passing of weeks it became evident that father was losing ground. He was then advised to go to Philadelphia to consult Dr. Chevalier Jackson, the noted throat specialist. Arrangements having been made, Allan accompanied father to Philadelphia on August 22nd where after a few days for observation and preparation Dr. Jackson performed an esophagoscopy and found a lesion in the cervical esophagus, a small foreign body being removed. The growth was termed by him as a low grade of malignancy. Any operation on the growth itself being advised against because of the probability of fatal results. Thus they returned home with the knowledge of a condition that could only grow worse with the passing of time. All agreed that it would be foolish to keep the doctor's report from father as it is likely that he had a fairly accurate realization of his condition. And so he entered upon this last phase of his life, living on a diet of liquids, and sustained by a philosophy and spirit which never left him. He gradually prepared for the end which came at 12:40 A. M. on October 21, 1929, at his residence 703 W. Sullivan Street, Olean, N. Y. Those present at his bedside during his last illness were his three sons, Allan B., Myron P., and Friend P. Williams, and Mrs. Myron P. Williams and Miss Emily Williams.

The funeral services were held from his residence at 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, October 22nd, The officiating clergyman was the Rev. Joseph Groves, Rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

The honorary and active bearers were as follows:

Honorary:

Hon. N. V. V. Franchot
Mr. William A. Dusenbury
Mr. Edward W. Fitzgerald
Mr. Carl R. Bard
Mr. A. E. Ewing
Mr. M. G. Fitzpatrick
Mr. E. H. Wright
Mr. J. B. Gage
Mr. John P. Herrick
Mr. Irving E. Worden

Active:

Mr. Mark M. Holmes
Mr. Allen J. Hastings
Mr. Wilson K. Page
Dr. Lea W. Tindolph
Mr. F. Harrison Higgins
Mr. Charles L. Davis
Mr. Alfred J. Baker
Mr. John G. Lynch

A quartette composed of Mrs. George Rogers, soprano, Mrs. F. M. Osborn, alto, Mr. Edward Hornblom, tenor, and Mr. Walter J. Thompson, bass, rendered the following hymns:

"O, Lamb of God, Still Keep Me"
"Abide with Me"

The interment was in the family plot in Mt. View Cemetery, Olean, N. Y. At the close of the committal service taps were sounded by Mr. LeRoy Boone of the American Legion.

The following is an editorial from the Olean Evening Times of October 22, 1929:

A NOTABLE LIFE

The passing of Allan Irving Williams sounds "Taps" for another of the fast diminishing members of the Grand Army of the Republic of this city and vicinity; and while many years had been added to his allotted three score and ten, there is always a feeling of sorrow when such veterans take their leave and a deep sense of gratitude for the part they played in life, both during those dark days of civil strife and the subsequent reconstructive period.

Mr. Williams did his full part in each era—a man of constructive thought, a good neighbor and a good citizen. He had served the community of Olean in many civic activities. He had acted for a considerable time as chairman of the Park Board. For many years he was cashier of the Exchange National Bank, and was a director of that institution at the time of his death. He was a member of the City Club, and was a man of unusual patriotism, and his integrity was beyond question.

One of Mr. Williams' most appealing traits was his great love of nature and wild life in every form. He was a man of simple tastes and unassuming character, and had always been unusually active. He stood unflinchingly at all times for the right as he saw it. Positive in his nature, one always knew just where he stood on any matter.

Allan I. Williams leaves an heritage that is well worth while. His memory will long be cherished.

Resolutions adopted by the directors of the Exchange National Bank October 29, 1929:

"Whereas, death has removed our friend and valued associate, Allan Irving Williams,

Be it resolved that we, the directors of the Exchange National Bank of Olean, New York, record here the following memorial and tribute of esteem and affection for our fellow member whose death occurred at his home on October 21, 1929

Mr. Williams was born in Farmington, Michigan, January 20, 1846. His early life was spent in the primitive enjoyment common to the pioneer of his time. When only sixteen years old he enlisted in the Fifth Michigan Volunteer Cavalry. He took part in many engagements of the Civil War, being wounded at Gettysburg, and remained in the service until 1865.

He came to Olean in 1884, was identified with the petroleum industry for ten years, when he became cashier of the Exchange National Bank, filling this office with unusual ability until his retirement, January 1, 1907. He remained a director of the institution until his death.

Mr. Williams was a man of unquestioned integrity; his honesty and courage were fundamental. The valor evidenced by his youthful enlistment in the Army was repeatedly reflected in his attitude toward all questions of public interest and concern in later civil life.

Warm in his friendships, faithful to all trusts imposed in him, active to the very close of a long and useful life, his example is, indeed, worthy of emulation.

RESOLVED, that this memorial be entered upon the minutes of this meeting."

Resolutions adopted by the Members of the City Club at a special meeting held Tuesday, October 22, 1929:

"We are again met to pay our tribute of respect to the life and memory of one of our oldest and most highly esteemed members, who has passed from among us forever.

Allan Irving Williams was born at Farmington, Michigan, January 20th, 1846 and died at Olean, New York, October 21st, 1929. His early life was passed in primitive surroundings and amongst limited opportunities. At the age of sixteen years he enlisted for

the Civil War, serving in Company K of the Fifth Michigan Volunteer Cavalry. He was a faithful and valiant soldier, taking part in many engagements, and was wounded in the battle of Gettysburg. Following the close of the War he was, for a time, engaged in business in the City of New York, and later in the milling business near Rochester, New York.

Coming to Olean in 1884, he was from that time associated with the Acme works of the Standard Oil Company in this city, until 1890. He then became the Secretary and Treasurer of the Associated Producers Company and continued in that position until 1894 when he was chosen Cashier of the Exchange National Bank of Olean, continuing in that capacity until he retired from business January 1st, 1907, but remained a director in that bank until the time of his death.

He was a man of keen understanding and acquired a comprehensive knowledge along many lines, particularly in finance and accounting, botany and horticulture, amateur photography, and the life and habits of wild animals in this vicinity.

While never seeking public office, he was always public spirited and gave liberally of his time and substance in forwarding all movements for a better community. Throughout his long, active and useful life, he was faithful and efficient in the discharge of every duty and trust that came to him, and is entitled to all the rewards promised a good and faithful servant. He was always interested in the youth of our city, and will be deeply missed by all who were privileged to know him.

In his death, our Club has lost a valued member, our community an upright and useful citizen, and his sons a kind and loving father.

We deeply deplore his death and extend our heartfelt sympathy to his bereaved family, and in his memory, and as an expression of our appreciation of his worth and life and our sorrow in his death, we inscribe this memorial upon a page of our records."

Father's interest in the children of his city and their welfare is referred to in one of the appended testimonials. The following letter to the Olean Times printed February 14, 1922 is typical of his attitude in that regard:

"Editor Olean Times

Dear Sir:

Referring to the prohibition of
all coasting on Sullivan hill on account

of several recent accidents, the writer protests that these are not sufficient reason for the prohibition order which in any event will be more or less ineffectual. The same course of reasoning behind the promulgation of this order would consistently banish every motor vehicle from our streets, for their use is the cause of almost daily accidents. In either case accidents are regrettable but in nearly all cases are the result of carelessness. I plead the cause of the rising generation. It is our bounded duty to afford them all the facilities in our power for their proper physical as well as moral development. None of the games for the physical development of young manhood is free from danger not even our national game of baseball or any other. Among winter sports none is more beneficial and exhilarating than coasting, and none is more appealing to the younger generation. It is entirely beyond the power of any civil authority to suppress it, then why not recognize it and surround it with all practical safeguards?

I live at Sixth and Sullivan streets, the starting point, and have watched the sport with much pleasure. I have been amazed at the skill with which the youngsters guide their bobs to Thirteenth street in an even and narrow track, and the uniform good nature and comradery of the participants has been a constant wonderment.

In the case of the recent accident causing the serious injury to two little ones, I would like to ask where was the policeman, supposedly in charge, who allowed an auto to tow up a hill a string of bobs, necessarily out of control, which caused the regrettable accident, and right here it might be pertinent to say that a large measure of responsibility rests upon the parents of the little five year old victim, for allowing it to wander from home without a guardian.

With those on Sullivan street, who complain of the noise made by the coasters at night, I have no sympathy whatever. It is music to me. I was a boy once myself, and hope I will always have a charity for the noise of happy childhood. In view of the fact that our youngsters will indulge in

coasting in spite of the powers that be,
I submit that it would be better to recognize the fact and surround the pastime with more efficient safeguards and regulations.

A. I. Williams,
703 W. Sullivan Street."

His own grandchildren of which there are ten, have reason to remember something of his interest and sympathy as in his will they were each bequeathed the sum of \$500.00.

Among the few letters written by A. I. Williams during the Civil War the following three are inserted.

Probably 1863
"Monday, May 4th,

Here I sit on my horse facing the west or the enemy. My position is a grassy knob in a large meadow lot. In front and a little to the right is a comfortable looking in fact quite a pretty looking farm house in the rear of which is a fair looking barn with a steeple to it resembling father's very much only it isn't painted. In front are green fields interspersed with cherry and peach trees in full bloom. Farther on it is woods while far in the distance looms up above the surrounding country the Bull Run Mountains stretching both to the right and left. I hear the music of many happy birds. See all nature bursting forth from the icy chains of winter clothed in her garb of green. See cows grazing in green pastures and the farmer following the plow. When I see this beautiful scene spread out before me like a picture I am loath to believe that the angel of war hangs over it. It doesn't seem that the mountains in the distance were the abodes of men who make it their business to creep around under cover of darkness to get an opportunity to shoot a fellow creature or that I stood here to prevent any one from crossing such a particular portion of ground for fear he might be an enemy. But so it is. When I see the devastation which is spread over the country which the demon has passed I am wont to exclaim "Oh, War, when wilt thou have an end." I see the

relief coming so I shall have to quit
for it woudn't pay to be caught scribbling
on post.

Allan."

"U.S.A. Hospital
South St.,
Philadelphia
Aug. 8th-/63

Dear Father:

I rec'd yours of July 30th yesterday
and seat myself to answer. I have received
3 letters from home since I have been here
all mailed at Owosso July 18th & 27th &
Aug. 3rd. I have written since I have been
here more than 3 times this number home. My
wound is getting on finely. The Dr. said it
looked very nice this morning. If I should
happen to get a furlough I should have to
pay soldier's fare, I.E. 2 cts. per mile and
its not much short of 750 or 800 miles, or
I could go to the transportation office and
get transportation on a furlough, and then
it would be taken out of my next 3 months
wages. There are four months pay due me the
first of next month. You cannot tell what my
feelings were when I heard that Albert had
been in the rebel Army. What if he had been
in the east and I had met him in the fight,
but I of course wouldn't have known him.
My mother's brother and he is a rebel. I can
hardly believe it. Woe be to me the day I turn
and fight against my country. I will die first.
Victory has perched upon our banners in almost
every action for six weeks past. Charleston
I think will soon be ours and then secession
will soon find an end. Then we must settle
the copperheads. When Uncle Sam's hosts of
Union Soldiers get back home woe be to the
copperhead that dare<lift his head against — *dares*
the Government. We have the daily papers
here every day. If you could get the news
any quicker by my sending you papers regular.
Tell me all about the farm and every thing else
you can think of. Love to all the folks. Hop-
ing to hear from you soon I remain as ever

Your son
Allan."

"In Hospital at
Gettysburg, Pa.
July 4th, 1863.

My dear Mother:

You no doubt are very anxious to hear from me. I haven't been where I could write for ten days. The last I wrote I was in the Brigade Hospital at Fairfax C. H. with a felon on my hand. I told you that our Reg't has gone out to fight but they went down to the Rappahannock and back without meeting anything. The next day we broke up camp and my hand was well so I went with them. We moved most up to Leesburg and then turned off towards the Potomac and crossed over into Maryland at Edwards Ford and stopped for the night near Poolsville. The next day we moved straight northward through Maryland to Frederick but how different from Virginia. War had not laid its ruthless hand on this beautiful country. We passed through the most beautiful country near Frederick that I ever saw. Rich fields of waving grain lined the road on either side and stretched away as far as the eye could reach. We next moved up to Emmetsburg and from thence to Gettysburg where we expected to find rebels but they left the day before. We staid there one night and then went back to Emmetsburg where we met lots of Infantry and artillery. It then became evident that there would be a battle some where not far off. That night we marched nearly all night to near Littlestown. The next morning we went into the village and about noon we started. We had ~~not~~ ^{only} just ^{got} out of the place when about 700 rebel cavalry charged down on our column right in front. They turned and ran without doing any damage when they saw ~~who~~ we were. We dismounted and advanced as skirmishers that is our reg't did and kept up a sharp firing all the afternoon till towards night. During this time we could hear and see artillery firing over at Hanover. We drove them and lost only one man killed in our reg't and several wounded. One Lieut. Dutcher of Co. I. Towards night we moved over to Hanover where we saw the Artillery and found our forces had had a pretty sharp fight right in the streets

stayed

had only just got —

of Hanover with several thousand rebs and a battery, but they were completely routed and we occupied Hanover that night. Along the streets as we passed dead rebs and horses, that night we heard of the capture of Vicksburg with 25 thousand prisoners and a short time after heard cannonading but supposed it was rejoicing over the victory but learned the next morning that the rebs occupied Gettysburg in large force and our men were fighting them. Towards noon we moved forward toward that place and found a brisk cannonading going on. We didn't take any part in the fight that night it being principally between infantry and artillery. The next day, which was yesterday, the fight commenced early in the morning and lasted all day. In the forenoon it was mostly musketry with a good deal of Artillery. About noon the firing nearly ceased. It soon commenced again and such a roar of Artillery, it seems to me, never was heard on the continent as it was here, for two or three hours. During all this time we were way out one side away from the battle dismounted ready to meet anything that might make its appearance. About 3 o'clock we noticed a movement off to the right of where we were and the battery that was with us throw some shell in that direction which were returned with considerable spirit. We advanced as skirmishers and were promptly met by their sharp shooters and a short fight ensued. We drove the rebs at first and then I was wounded slightly. One ball in the left foot and a spent ball struck me in the calf of the right leg neither doing much damage. The balls flew like hail all around us and many of our brave boys fell back. I was wounded in the commencement and left the field. The Major of our battalion was shot dead while leading the men gallantly on. He was dearly loved by all the boys and his loss is sincerely regretted. As soon as our Reg't fell back the seventh and first Mich. Cav. made a gallant charge right in the face of the leaden hail and drove the rebs again with considerable loss on both sides. Then our reg't rallied to their horses and made a second charge. Then a third charge was made by some other Cav. Notwithstanding the odds were fearfully against us we came

out about as well as they did. They had lots of infantry and sharpshooters at that. During this time our battery blew theirs all to pieces. While we were advancing a shell struck out a few rods in front of our Co. and plowed up the dirt well. A second one burst right over our heads and the pieces fell all around us but did no damage. We lost pretty heavily I can't tell the No. Our Co. lost only one man killed, several wounded and several missing. None of the Bennington boys though. I am in a barn now with about 25 other wounded men. I will finish this tomorrow though I don't know when I shall have a chance to send it. Haven't had any mail since we left Fairfax C.H. though I think we shall get mail now.

July 5th. A very heavy battle has been fought with great loss on both sides. We were victorious. The rebs have retreated and we have undisputed possession of Gettysburg. Our troops are moving and they (the rebs) will be lucky if they get across the Potomac safe. We took several thousand prisoners. Gen. Longstreet was killed I believe. We were removed to the Presbyterian Church at Gettysburg today where we'll get the best of care from both citizens and soldiers. The buildings are perfectly riddled in some places with balls. I noticed one sign had five ball holes through it. No more now. Write soon and a long letter. Preserve this.

Your son

Allan.

Direct as usual till I tell you not to.

It is the belief of a good many of us that if we whip the rebs before they can cross the Potomac that this war will soon end."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Donation of Material to Lincoln
Museum in Washington, D. C.

The late Allan I. Williams was a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln and for some years following the close of the Civil War he and a friend Andrew Boyd, of Albany, N. Y., collected anything of interest pertaining to Lincoln and exchanged material with each other.

The sons determined to donate this collection to the Museum and correspondence with the Director U. S. Grant 3rd ensued in June 1933. The letters acknowledging this material follow:

"PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC
PARKS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington, D. C.
June 29, 1933.

Mr. Allan B. Williams,
Exchange National Bank Building,
Olean, New York.

Subject: Donation of material
to the Lincoln Museum.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of June 18, together with the material which you recently sent by insured parcel post to the Custodian of the Lincoln Museum, this city.

All the material as listed in inventory submitted by you under date of May 29, 1933 has been received in good condition. However, instead of the fourteen (14) envelopes with mourning bands, as listed under your item #21, only six (6) were received. This adjustment was explained by you in your letter of June 16.

All the items which you and your brothers have donated are entirely new acquisitions to the Lincoln Museum, except the following.

Your Item No. Description

- 1 Booklet, 9 x 11, bearing on the title page: "Abraham Lincoln, Foully assassinated April 14, 1865. A poem with an illustration from the London Punch May 6, 1865. Republished with an introduction by Andrew Boyd, Albany, N. Y., Joel Munsell 1868." Copy #34.
- 2 153 page pamphlet bearing on the title page: "A Memorial of Abraham Lincoln, late President of the United States. Printed by order of the City Council of the City of Boston, Mass.
- 14 Card 4 x 5-3/4 containing a fine steel portrait published by John C. Buttre, 48 Franklin St., New York. This is printed on a heavy white glazed card.

The books and pamphlets have been placed in the Library of the Lincoln Museum, and the other articles are being placed on display in the Museum proper. Markers are being made to the effect that the material was collected by your father, the late Allan Irving Williams, a Veteran of the Civil War, and that the said material was donated to the Lincoln Museum by you and your brothers, Myron P. Williams and Friend P. Williams.

The two (2) letters (those from Andrew Boyd to your father), your items Nos. 25 and 26, came along with the rest of the material and they are now in possession of the Custodian of the Lincoln Museum.

This office is indeed greatly indebted to you and your brothers for your thoughtfulness and generosity in presenting to the Lincoln Museum the material collected by your father, and it wishes to extend its sincere thanks to each one of you. Your donations have added to the educational and patriotic features of the Lincoln Museum and it is hoped that you three will find time in the near future to come to Washington and view the articles on exhibit.

Again thanking you for your kindness and co-operation, I am

Very truly yours,

J. A. Woodruff, Director."

"UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Washington
June 28, 1934.

Mr. Allan B. Williams,
c/o Higgins Company,
Exchange National Bank Building,
Olean, New York.

My dear Mr. Williams:

Your letter of June 18, addressed to Colonel J. A. Woodruff, Director of the former Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, with which you forwarded two small photographs of Abraham Lincoln and one of John Wilkes Booth, has been referred to me for acknowledgment, as the maintenance and operation of the Lincoln Museum in this city has been transferred to the National Park Service.

The photographs will be placed in the files of the Lincoln Museum with an appropriate notation to the effect that they were presented by you and your brothers, Myron P. Williams and Friend P. Williams.

I have learned of the previous generous donation of material which you and your brothers made to the Lincoln Museum and I assure you that your thoughtfulness in adding the photographs referred to above is appreciated.

Cordially yours,

Arno B. Cammerer,
Director."

Mr. Williams descendants will find increased interest in the Museum should they visit it in the

future.

The Museum is now located in the old Ford Theatre and the Library is located in the old house across the street where Lincoln died.

EMMA BARTON WILLIAMS

Emma Barton Williams was born at Lima, N. Y., on Nov. 29, 1842, the youngest of five children born to Elijah Camp Barton and Almira Decker Barton. Her father was born in Salisbury, Litchfield County, Conn., on Sept. 16, 1802 but aside from a record of the names of his parents and their children little is definitely known of his ancestors. On the maternal side we are more fortunate in having a complete genealogical record in the Book of Mather, compiled by Horace E. Mather, of Hartford, Conn. We find that Richard Mather came to America from England in 1635 and settled in Dorchester, Mass. He was well educated, taught school, became a minister and preached both in England and America. About the middle of the 17th century he published many books mostly on religious subjects. Of his family, four of the sons went into the ministry all becoming famous preachers while Timothy, our ancestor, took up farming and was known as "Farmer Mather". As an item of interest, Timothy's youngest brother was Dr. Increase Mather, father of Rev. Dr. Cotton Mather of historical fame.

For many generations our line followed the occupation of farming at Lyme, Conn., and later at Lima, N. Y., where the marriage of John Decker and Phoebe Mather took place. From this marriage the first born was Almira who was not to be without companionship for the union was blessed with an even dozen children, six boys and six girls. The record shows that two of the children were born after Almira's marriage to Elijah Barton and during these first years both mother and daughter were bearing children which resulted in the unusual situation of an Aunt being junior to her Nephew in age. Emma being the youngest of the Barton children could not claim this distinction. We can piece together some information regarding the early activities of the Barton family although the record is far from complete. Grandfather was a millwright and followed this calling during his active life. From a diary kept by mother during the year 1855 when she was 13 years old, we learn that they were then living in Perry, N. Y., where grandfather was conducting a grist mill. These were the years for such schooling as the country afforded and there is evidence that the Barton children were also being taught to have a full share in the duties of the household - with it

all there seems to have been opportunities for visiting relatives and friends.

It is known that during and after the War, mother lived for long periods with her Aunt Emily (Mrs. Demian Williams) in Bennington, Michigan. And it was here that she and father pursued their courtship when he was home on visits during the years he was establishing himself in business. In the meantime the Barton family moved to Lima, N. Y., where father and mother were married on January 5, 1869. The section devoted to father carries the family history from this point forward and it remains for us to attempt to record something of the part mother had in the family life. Always patient and sympathetic she could find time from household duties to look after the wants of her three boys. Whether binding up bruises, of which there were many, or nursing us through the sicknesses of childhood we looked to mother for comfort and she never failed to make it easier for us. For our entertainment there was reading and games and looking back it seems that both mother and father gave an unusual amount of companionship to their children, which discouraged the idea of always looking for fun outside of the home. Of course "boys will be boys" and there was a certain amount of taking advantage of mother's good nature and willingness to forgive, but somehow it seems that our unwillingness to hurt her feelings carried considerable weight in keeping us out of mischief although father's ever handy "rod" should be accorded some influence in that regard. Be that as it may, mother's never failing influence for good gave a background for character building to the great profit of her children. Coming down to high school days with ever increasing requirements, mother would sacrifice her own needs to provide "extras" for her boys while she seemed to delight in helping in any activity that she thought would give us happiness. Friends were always welcome and there was no restraint on parties or other gatherings in the home. With sympathy and understanding mother watched our courting days and took great pride in seeing us established in a business way. Within a few years she was to see all of her sons married with growing families and there grew up the custom of an annual family reunion at Thanksgiving which continued for many years and until mother's declining years

made it desirable to adopt installment visiting.

Mother's death on November 24, 1920, completed a long life of love and devotion to her family. All things said of the good mothers could be truly said of our mother and we do well to cherish her memory.

ized, Chairman of Finance Committee two years and Vice-Chairman four years, represented the Olean Chapter at the Red Cross War Council called by President Woodrow Wilson held in Washington May 25, 1917; Treasurer Olean Committee for the Fatherless Children of France from July 1, 1918 to Jan. 4, 1921; was one of thirty-seven members of Olean Park Improvement Association, Inc., formed in 1919 to further the public parks; Member Executive Committee and Treasurer Cattaraugus County Tuberculosis Association 1919 to July 1, 1930; acted as Fiscal Agent from Jan. 1, 1923 to Jan. 1, 1926 for State Charities Aid Association; representative of the Milbank Memorial Fund in the County Wide Health Demonstration; Member City Club, Olean, 1906 to 1922; Charter Member Hamilton Country Club (now Bartlett Country Club, Inc.,) 1907 to 1932; Member Kitchi-Gammi Club, Duluth, Minnesota, 1914 to 1924.

Married first Oct. 20, 1897 at Buffalo, N. Y., to Margaret Ione Gillette, daughter of Erastus Judd Gillette and Margaret Hume Gillette.

Ione Gillette Williams died at Post-Graduate Hospital, New York, April 17, 1917.

CHILDREN:

Thelma Gillette Williams, born June 28, 1898, at Olean, N. Y., ; married Glenn Richard Kleinau Sept. 2, 1921, at Olean, N. Y.

THEIR CHILDREN:

Glenn Richard Kleinau, Jr., born Dec. 2, 1924, at Greenville, S. C.
Elspeth Ione Kleinau, born Dec. 10, 1925, at Piedmont Hospital, Atlanta, Ga.

Allan Ernest Kleinau, born Sept. 20, 1928, at Chattanooga, Tenn.

Allan Barton Williams, born Sept. 22, 1899, at Olean, N. Y.,; married Lucia Kimball Sept. 19, 1925, at The Little Church Around the Corner in New York City.

THEIR CHILDREN:

Allan Barton Williams, 3rd, born Sept. 15, 1926, at Montclair, N. J.

Gillette Decker Williams, born June 8, 1910 at Olean, N. Y.

Marion Mather Williams, born Jan. 5, 1915, at Olean, N. Y.

Married second to Ada Martha Hutchins on Oct. 9, 1918, at St. Paul's Church, Fort Covington, Franklin County, N. Y., daughter of Frederick Sylvester Hutchins and Nellie Southworth Hutchins.

CHILDREN:

Eleanor Southworth Williams, born April 20, 1921, at Olean, N. Y.

RESIDES:

130 S. Barry Street, Olean, N. Y.

MYRON PERCY WILLIAMS

Second son of Allan Irving and Emma Barton Williams, born at Rutherford Park, N. J., Dec. 6, 1872.

First schooling at Richmond Mills, N. Y., and continued in Grammar and High Schools at Olean, N. Y.

Entered employ of Associated Producers Company at Olean in March, 1891, as office assistant and had advanced to position of head bookkeeper when office was moved to New York City in February, 1895.

Thereafter held offices of Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President and President of the original and the group of later organized subsidiary companies of Tide Water Oil Company, operating in the Mid-continent and Eastern fields. Service terminated by retirement on January 31, 1932.

Served in 43rd Separate Company, National Guard, New York at Olean for three years to February 1895; Member of Westfield, N. J., Presbyterian Church to May, 1905; Member and trustee First Presbyterian Church, Orange, N. J., to June, 1923; Member, trustee and treasurer Central Presbyterian Church, Summit, N. J., to date; Member Whitehall Club, New York City, several years to March, 1932; Trustee Co-operative Service Association, Summit, N. J.

Married Sept. 15, 1896, at Newtonville, Mass., to Margaret Clark, daughter of Newton E. and Kate J. Clark.

CHILDREN:

Gertrude Williams, born Aug. 22, 1898 at Westfield, N. J.; married John Robert Whitlock, June 9, 1927 at Summit, N. J.

THEIR CHILDREN:

Barbara Hunt Whitlock, born March 17, 1928. at Summit, N. J.

Mellicent Clark Whitlock, born Oct. 16, 1932, at Summit, N. J.

Clark Barton Williams, born Nov. 12, 1899 at Westfield, N. J.; died July 22, 1900 at Westfield, N. J.

Newton Clark Williams, born Sept. 28, 1904 at Westfield, N. J.; married Mary Ann Fobes, March 2, 1934, at Montclair, N. J.

THEIR CHILDREN:

Myron Clark Williams, born Dec. 1,
1934, in Overlook Hospital, Summit,
N. J.

Margaret Emily Williams, born Aug. 18,
1908, at East Orange, N. J.,; married
George Ernest Long, Jr., Jan. 3, 1931,
at Summit, N. J.

RESIDES:

32 Lenox Road, Summit, N. J.

FRIEND PITTS WILLIAMS

Youngest son of Allan Irving Williams and Emma Barton Williams; born in Richmond Mills, Ontario County, New York, Dec. 18, 1875; attended district school in Richmond Mills until 1884 when family removed to Olean, N. Y.; graduated from Olean High School, Class of 1893; graduated from Cornell University in 1899 with degree of Civil Engineer.

Employed with Pittsburg Shawmut & Northern R. R. Company in 1899 for five years on construction work in Western New York and Pennsylvania; in 1904 took position with New York State in charge of Highway construction in Westchester County, N. Y.; following this and until 1921 was advanced from Assistant Engineer to Special Deputy State Engineer engaged in New York State Barge Canal construction at Amsterdam, Mechanicville, Rochester and Albany; Since 1921 organized the work administered by the New York State Water Power Commission at Albany.

Organized company of volunteer engineers for training prior to entrance of United States in World War in 1917.

Member of American Society of Civil Engineers since 1910; President Albany Engineering Society in 1927; assisted in organizing Albany section of New York Society of Professional Engineers in 1929; member Presbyterian Church, Albany, N. Y.; member and director of University Club, Albany, N. Y.; member Ondawa Lodge of Masons, Mechanicville, N. Y.; member Beta Theta Pi fraternity; Class Treasurer and member Class Day Committee, Class of 1899, Cornell University.

Married to Alma Horton, daughter of Franklin M. and Lucy Bradley Horton, on April 10, 1907, at Brooklyn, N. Y.

Alma H. Williams died at Albany, N. Y., June 20, 1927.

CHILDREN:

Grace Williams, born at Amsterdam, N. Y., on Feb. 21, 1908.

Emily Louise Williams, born at Mechanicville, N. Y., on July 14, 1913.

RESIDES:

527 Mercer Street, Albany, N. Y.

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty six between John H Egerton of China of the first part, and Roger Barton of China of the second part, for and in consideration of the yearly rent covenants and agreements therein after mentioned and contained, on the part of the said party of the second part his executors administrators and assigns to be paid observed and performed, hath devised lease and to farm letters and by these presents doth devise lease and to farm letters unto the said party of the second part, his executors administrators and assigns all that certain farm piece or parcel of land now under improvement with the exception of the dwelling ^{house} and half an acre of land adjacent thereto for a garden spot situate lying and being at China on the Holland land Company tract third range township eight and Lot No twenty five south part supposed to contain (about twenty five acres be the same more or less) together with all and singular the benefits, liberties and privileges to the said premises belonging to have and to hold the said devised premises with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part his executors administrators and assigns, for and during and until the full end and term of one year next ensuing the day of the date of these presents fully to be complete and ended: yielding and paying therefor during the continuance of this

MYRON PERCY WILLIAMS

Second son of Allan Irving and Emma Barton Williams, born at Rutherford Park, N. J., Dec. 6, 1872.

First schooling at Richmond Mills, N. Y., and continued in Grammar and High Schools at Olean, N. Y.

Entered employ of Associated Producers Company at Olean in March, 1891, as office assistant and had advanced to position of head bookkeeper when office was moved to New York City in February, 1895. Thereafter held offices of Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President and President of the original and the group of later organized subsidiary companies of Tide Water Oil Company, operating in the Mid-continent and Eastern fields. Service terminated by retirement on January 31, 1932.

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Newton Clark Williams, born Sept. 28, 1904 at Westfield, N. J.; married Mary Ann Fobes, March 2, 1934, at Montclair, N. J.

year from the date of these presents And the said
party of the first part for himself his heirs and assigns
doth hereby covenant and agree to and with the said
party of the second part his executors administrators
and assigns to pay and discharge all taxes, charges,
assessments, and impositions levied or assessed on the
premises During the continuance of this lease,
It is further covenanted, that the said party of the
second part, his executors administrators and assigns,
paying the rent aforesaid and performing keeping and
observing the covenants and agreements herein before
contained shall and may quietly and peaceably have hold
occupy and enjoy the said hereby demised premises during
the said term of one year without any hindrance distur-
bance or molestation whatsoever of theirs the said party
of the first part his heirs or assigns or of any other person
or persons having or lawfully claiming any right in the
premises, In witness whereof the parties herunto have
interchangeably set their hands and seals this day
and year first above written

Sealed and delivered
in the presence of
Elijah Barton
Asher Barton

John H Eggleston

Roger Barton

MYRON PERCY WILLIAMS

Second son of Allan Irving and Emma Barton Williams, born at Rutherford Park, N. J., Dec. 6, 1872. First schooling at Richmond Mills, N. Y., and continued in Grammar and High Schools at Olean, N. Y. Entered employ of Associated Producers Company at Olean in March, 1891, as office assistant and had advanced to position of head bookkeeper when office was moved to New York City in February, 1895. Thereafter held offices of Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President and President of the original and the group of later organized subsidiary companies of Tide Water Oil Company, operating in the Mid-continent and Eastern fields. Service terminated by retirement on January 31, 1932.

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